Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (cancelled)

2.   (cancelled)

3.   (new). A postal sorting process comprising the steps of:

in a first sorting office:

a)   printing on mail items machine-readable sorting codes each one indicative of a

       distribution address of a mail item;

b)   sorting the mail items so as to compile ordered batches of mail items each

       corresponding to a certain zone of distribution of the mail items;

c)   compiling for each ordered batch of mail items a corresponding ordered list of

       sorting codes which is representative of the order of the mail items in said

       corresponding batch of mail items; and

d)   transferring each ordered batch of mail items with the corresponding ordered list

       of sorting codes to a second sorting office; and

in said second sorting office:

a)   reading by machine the sorting codes on said mail items of an ordered batch of

       mail items in order to sort said mail items so as to compile one or more mailmen's

       rounds;

b)   comparing said ordered batch mail items sorting codes read by machine with

       sorting codes extracted from the corresponding ordered list of sorting codes in

       order to recover errors in reading said sorting codes.

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4. (new) The process according to claim 3, wherein said ordered list of sorting codes is transferred by way of a telecommunication network from the first sorting office to the second sorting office.

5. (new) The process according to claim 3, wherein each sorting code is a bar code.